report of neglect UNDER SECTION 6 OF THIS ARTICLE or who participates in an investigation or in a resulting judicial proceeding is immune from any civil liability OR CRIMINAL PENALTY that might otherwise be incurred or imposed as a result.

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

35A.

(b) Wherever used in this section, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

7. "Abuse" shall mean any: (A) physical injury or injuries sustained by a child as a result of cruel or inhumane treatment or as a result of malicious act or acts by any parent, adoptive parent or other person who has the permanent or temporary care or custody or responsibility for supervision of a minor child UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES THAT INDICATE THAT THE CHILD'S HEALTH OR WELFARE IS HARMED OR THREATENED THEREBY (B) any sexual abuse of a child, whether physical injuries are sustained or not.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 6(b) through (d), respectively, of Article 88A - Social Services Administration of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 6(c) through (e), respectively.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 88A - Social Services Administration

6.

(B) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN ARTICLE 27, § 35A, ALL RECORDS AND REPORTS CONCERNING CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT ARE CONFIDENTIAL, AND THEIR UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE SUBJECT TO THE PENALTY SET OUT IN SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION. INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REPORTS OR RECORDS CONCERNING CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT MAY BE DISCLOSED ONLY:

(1) UNDER A COURT ORDER;

(2) TO PERSONNEL OF LOCAL OR STATE DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES, LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL, AND MEMBERS OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY CASE CONSULTATION TEAMS WHO ARE INVESTIGATING A REPORT OF KNOWN OR SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT OR WHO ARE PROVIDING SERVICES TO A CHILD OR FAMILY THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT; OR

(3) TO LOCAL OR STATE OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICE AS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THEIR OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS---; OR